

Amendment to the Claims

Please cancel claims 44-52 without prejudice to pursuing these claims in a continuation, divisional, continuation-in-part or other application. Please withdraw claims 5, 8, 16, 17, 19, 24, 30, 31, 36, and 42 without prejudice to consideration of these claims upon allowance of a generic claim. Please amend claim 38. Following is a complete listing of claims, as amended:

1. (Original) A microfeature workpiece holder adapted to hold a plurality of microfeature workpieces for chemical processing, comprising:

a longitudinally extending member having a plurality of workpiece supports spaced longitudinally along a length of the longitudinally extending member, the workpiece supports being adapted to support the plurality of microfeature workpieces in a spaced-apart relationship for processing; and

a longitudinally extending gas delivery conduit carried by the longitudinally extending member and having an inlet, a first outlet, and a second outlet spaced longitudinally from the first outlet, the first outlet being positioned to direct a process gas flow intermediate a first pair of the workpiece supports, the second outlet being positioned to direct a process gas flow intermediate a second pair of the workpiece supports.

2. (Original) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 1 wherein each of the workpiece supports comprises a slot in the longitudinally extending member adapted to receive an edge portion of one of the microfeature workpieces.

3. (Original) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 1 wherein the longitudinally extending member is a first longitudinally extending member, further comprising a second longitudinally extending member that includes a plurality of workpiece supports, each of the workpiece supports of the second longitudinally extending member being positioned relative to a workpiece support of the first

longitudinally extending member to cooperatively support one of the microfeature workpieces.

4. (Original) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 1 wherein the longitudinally extending member is a first longitudinally extending member and the gas delivery conduit is a first gas delivery conduit, further comprising a second longitudinally extending member and a second gas delivery conduit carried by the second longitudinally extending member.

5. (Withdrawn) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 1 wherein the longitudinally extending member is a first longitudinally extending member and the gas delivery conduit is a first gas delivery conduit adapted to deliver a first process gas flow, further comprising a second longitudinally extending member and a second gas delivery conduit carried by the second longitudinally extending member, the second gas delivery conduit being adapted to deliver a second process gas flow that is independent of the first process gas flow.

6. (Original) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 1 wherein the gas delivery conduit comprises an internal lumen of the longitudinal member.

7. (Original) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 1 wherein the longitudinally extending member is a first longitudinally extending member and the gas delivery conduit is a first gas delivery conduit that comprises an internal lumen of the first longitudinal member, further comprising a second longitudinally extending member having an internal lumen that defines a second gas delivery conduit.

8. (Withdrawn) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 1 wherein the gas delivery conduit is formed separately from the longitudinal member and a length of the gas delivery conduit extends alongside a length of the longitudinal member.

9. (Original) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 1 further comprising a process gas supply conduit releasably coupled to the inlet of the gas delivery conduit.

10. (Original) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 1 wherein the each of first and second outlets of the gas delivery conduit is positioned to direct a process gas flow inwardly toward a center of one of the plurality of microfeature workpieces when the microfeature workpieces are loaded in the microfeature workpiece holder.

11. (Original) A microfeature workpiece holder adapted to hold a plurality of microfeature workpieces, comprising:

- a plurality of workpiece supports adapted to support a plurality of microfeature workpieces in a spaced-apart relationship to define a process space between pairs of adjacent microfeature workpieces; and
- a gas distributor fixed with respect to the workpiece supports, the gas distributor including an inlet and a plurality of outlets, wherein the outlets are positioned with respect to the workpiece supports to direct a flow of process gas into the process spaces.

12. (Original) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 11 wherein each of the workpiece supports comprises a slot adapted to receive an edge portion of one of the microfeature workpieces.

13. (Original) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 11 wherein the workpiece supports are carried by a longitudinally extending member, at least a portion of the gas distributor being carried by the longitudinally extending member.

14. (Original) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 11 wherein the workpiece supports includes a set of first workpiece supports and a set of second workpiece supports, the set of first workpiece supports being carried by a first member and the set of second workpiece supports being carried by a second member.

15. (Original) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 11 wherein the workpiece supports includes a plurality of first workpiece supports and a plurality of second workpiece supports, the plurality of first workpiece supports being carried by a first member and the plurality of second workpiece supports being carried by a second member, each of the second workpiece supports being positioned relative to one of the first workpiece supports to cooperatively support one of the microfeature workpieces.

16. (Withdrawn) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 11 wherein the gas distributor includes a first gas delivery conduit and a second gas delivery conduit, and wherein the inlet is a first inlet in fluid communication with the first gas delivery conduit, further comprising a second inlet in fluid communication with the second gas delivery conduit.

17. (Withdrawn) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 16 wherein the first gas delivery conduit is adapted to deliver a first process gas flow and the second gas delivery conduit is adapted to deliver a second process gas flow that is independent of the first process gas flow.

18. (Original) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 11 wherein the workpiece supports are carried by a longitudinally extending member and at least a portion of the gas distributor is formed integrally with the longitudinally extending member.

19. (Withdrawn) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 11 wherein the workpiece supports are carried by a longitudinally extending member and the gas distributor includes a gas delivery conduit having a length that extends alongside a length of the longitudinal member.

20. (Original) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 11 further comprising a process gas supply conduit releasably coupled to the inlet of the gas delivery conduit.

21. (Original) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 11 wherein each of the outlets is positioned to direct the flow of process gas inwardly toward a center of one of the plurality of microfeature workpieces when the microfeature workpieces are loaded in the microfeature workpiece holder.

22. (Original) A microfeature workpiece holder adapted to hold a plurality of microfeature workpieces, comprising:

- a first member having a plurality of first workpiece supports spaced along a length of the first member, a plurality of outlets spaced along the length of the first member, and an internal lumen coupling an inlet to each of the outlets, wherein each of the outlets is disposed between two adjacent workpiece supports;

- a second member having a plurality of second workpiece supports spaced along a length of the second member, each of the second workpiece supports being positioned relative to one of the first workpiece supports to cooperatively support a workpiece;

- and at least one cross-member joined to the first and second members.

23. (Original) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 22 wherein each of the first and second workpiece supports comprises a slot adapted to receive an edge portion of one of the microfeature workpieces.

24. (Withdrawn) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 22 wherein the second member includes a plurality of second member outlets spaced along a length of the second member, and an internal lumen coupling a second member inlet to each of the a second member outlets.

25. (Original) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 22 further comprising a process gas supply conduit releasably coupled to the inlet.

26. (Original) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 22 wherein the each of the outlets is positioned to direct a process gas flow inwardly toward a center of one of the plurality of microfeature workpieces when the microfeature workpieces are loaded in the microfeature workpiece holder.

27. (Original) A microfeature workpiece holder adapted to hold a plurality of microfeature workpieces, comprising:

workpiece support means for supporting a plurality of microfeature workpieces in a spaced-apart relationship to define a process space between each pair of adjacent microfeature workpieces; and

a gas distributor means adjacent to the workpiece support means, the gas distributor means including a plurality of outlets, each of the outlets being positioned to direct a flow of process gas into one of the process spaces.

28. (Original) A microfeature workpiece processing system, comprising:

an enclosure defining a process chamber;

a removable microfeature workpiece holder disposed in the processing chamber, the microfeature workpiece holder including:

a plurality of workpiece supports adapted to support a plurality of microfeature workpieces in a spaced-apart relationship to define a process space adjacent a surface of each microfeature workpiece; and

a gas distributor including an inlet and a plurality of outlets, each of the outlets being positioned to direct a flow of process gas into one of the process spaces; and

a process gas supply conduit coupled to the inlet of the gas distributor of the microfeature workpiece holder.

29. (Original) The microfeature workpiece processing system of claim 28 wherein the gas distributor includes a first conduit and a second conduit spaced from

the first conduit, each of the first and second conduits extending longitudinally adjacent the process spaces.

30. (Withdrawn) The microfeature workpiece processing system of claim 28 wherein the inlet comprises a first inlet and the gas distributor includes a first conduit and a second conduit spaced from the first conduit, and wherein the microfeature workpiece holder further comprises a second inlet, the first conduit being in fluid communication with the first inlet and the second conduit being in fluid communication with the second inlet.

31. (Withdrawn) The microfeature workpiece processing system of claim 28 wherein the process gas supply conduit is a first process gas supply conduit, further comprising a second gas supply conduit coupled to a second gas delivery outlet, the second gas delivery outlet being adapted to deliver a flow of gas in a direction transverse to a direction of the flow of gas from the gas distributor outlets.

32. (Original) The microfeature workpiece processing system of claim 28 wherein the workpiece holder includes a longitudinally extending member that carries at least some of the workpiece supports, the gas distributor comprising an internal lumen of the longitudinally extending member.

33. (Original) The microfeature workpiece processing system of claim 28 wherein each of the workpiece supports comprises a slot adapted to receive an edge portion of one of the microfeature workpieces.

34. (Original) The microfeature workpiece processing system of claim 28 wherein the workpiece supports are carried by a longitudinally extending member, at least a portion of the gas distributor being carried by the longitudinally extending member.

35. (Original) The microfeature workpiece processing system of claim 28 wherein the workpiece supports are carried by a longitudinally extending member and at least a portion of the gas distributor is an internal lumen of the longitudinally extending member.

36. (Withdrawn) The microfeature workpiece processing system of claim 28 wherein the workpiece supports are carried by a longitudinally extending member and the gas distributor includes a gas delivery conduit having a length that extends alongside a length of the longitudinal member.

37. (Original) The microfeature workpiece processing system of claim 28 wherein each of the outlets is positioned to direct the flow of process gas inwardly toward a center of one of the plurality of microfeature workpieces when the microfeature workpieces are loaded in the microfeature workpiece holder.

38. (Currently Amended) A microfeature workpiece processing system, comprising:

- an enclosure defining a process chamber;

- a removable microfeature workpiece holder disposed in the processing chamber,

- the microfeature workpiece holder including:

- a longitudinally extending member having a plurality of workpiece supports spaced longitudinally along a length of the longitudinally extending member, the ~~wafer~~workpiece supports being adapted to support the plurality of microfeature workpieces in a spaced-apart relationship for processing; and

- a longitudinally extending gas delivery conduit carried by the longitudinally extending member and having an inlet, a first outlet, and a second outlet spaced longitudinally from the first outlet, the first outlet being positioned to direct a process gas flow intermediate a first pair of the ~~wafer~~workpiece supports, the second outlet being positioned to

direct a process gas flow intermediate a second pair of the ~~wafer~~
workpiece supports; and
a process gas supply conduit coupled to the inlet of the gas distributor of the
microfeature workpiece holder.

39. (Original) The microfeature workpiece processing system of claim 38
wherein each of the workpiece supports comprises a slot in the longitudinally extending
member adapted to receive an edge portion of one of the microfeature workpieces.

40. (Original) The microfeature workpiece processing system of claim 38
wherein the longitudinally extending member is a first longitudinally extending member
and the gas delivery conduit is a first gas delivery conduit, and wherein the microfeature
workpiece holder further comprises a second longitudinally extending member and a
second gas delivery conduit carried by the second longitudinally extending member.

41. (Original) The microfeature workpiece processing system of claim 38
wherein the gas delivery conduit comprises an internal lumen of the longitudinal
member.

42. (Withdrawn) The microfeature workpiece processing system of claim 38
wherein the gas delivery conduit is formed separately from the longitudinal member and
a length of the gas delivery conduit extends alongside a length of the longitudinal
member.

43. (Original) The microfeature workpiece processing system of claim 38
wherein the each of first and second outlets of the gas delivery conduit is positioned to
direct a process gas flow inwardly toward a center of one of the plurality of microfeature
workpieces when the microfeature workpieces are loaded in the microfeature workpiece
holder.

44-52. (Canceled).